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Application No: 10/004,089
Response to Office Action of 01/30/2006

Complete Listing of all Pending Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of configuring a user interface of computer-assisted equipment according to a service program, comprising the steps of:

said computer-assisted equipment transmitting a message to a remote computer;

said remote computer determining that said service program available on said remote computer is suitable for use with said computer-assisted equipment, said determining being based on said message;

said remote computer transmitting said service program to said computer-assisted equipment;

said remote computer conveying at least one interface instruction that allows said computer-assisted equipment to cooperate with said remote computer in accordance with said service program, wherein said service program programs one or more selectors located on a surface of the computer-assisted equipment; and

said computer-assisted equipment configuring the user interface of said computer-assisted equipment.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said computer-assisted equipment provides entertainment.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said computer-assisted equipment is an audio reproduction system.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said computer-assisted equipment is a remote control device that controls functions of a video entertainment system, said video entertainment system receiving content from said remote computer.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining step includes said remote computer informing said computer-assisted equipment that at least one additional service program is available, said computer-assisted equipment selecting from among said service program and said at least one additional service program.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, additionally comprising said remote computer receiving a selection from said computer-assisted equipment, said selection indicating which of said service program and said at least one additional service program a user has selected.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said remote computer is a general-purpose computer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said message is a service request that indicates that said computer-assisted equipment is ready to operate cooperatively with said remote computer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising said remote computer transmitting content to said computer-assisted equipment under the control of said service program.

10. (Currently amended) In a computer-assisted appliance, a method for interacting with a remote computer that executes a service program, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a service request to said remote computer;
receiving an interface instruction that allows said computer-assisted equipment to cooperate with said remote computer in accordance with said service program, wherein said service program programs one or more selectors located on a surface of the computer-assisted equipment; and

transmitting a user input to said remote computer in accordance with said interface instruction;

receiving content from said remote computer in response to said interface instruction, and

said computer-assisted appliance configuring the user interface of the computer-assisted appliance.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said service request includes an indication that said computer-assisted appliance is available and is ready to receive said service program.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said remote computer is one of a portable and a desktop computing device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said appliance is an audio system that conveys music, and wherein said content includes a music file.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said user input is a selection of a title of said music file.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said service program includes instructions that enable said audio system to display a list of music selections.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said service program influences the function of a display located on said computer-assisted appliance.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said service program influences a function of a remote control device used to control an entertainment device.

18-23. (canceled)

24. (Currently amended) In a remote computer, a method for cooperating with computer-assisted equipment, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for service from said computer-assisted equipment;
determining that a service program suitable for use with said computer-assisted equipment is available, said service program including an interface instruction;

transmitting said interface instruction to said computer-assisted appliance, said interface instruction allowing said computer-assisted equipment to cooperate with said remote computer in accordance with said service program, wherein said service program programs one or more selectors located on a surface of the computer-assisted equipment; and

cooperating with said computer-assisted appliance in accordance with said service program, wherein said service program configures the user interface of said computer-assisted equipment.

25. (Original) The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said determining step includes receiving a selection as to which service program has been selected by a user of said computer-assisted equipment.

26. (Original) The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said remote computer is interfaced to a network and wherein said remote computer communicates with a network location available on said network.

27. (Original) The remote computer of claim 24, wherein said transmitting step is accomplished by way of transmitting said interface instruction using a wireless interface.

28-32. (canceled)

33. (Currently amended) One or more computer-readable media having computer-readable instructions thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method comprising the steps of:

receiving a service query from a computer-assisted appliance;

determining that a service program suitable for use with said computer-assisted appliance is available;

transmitting an interface instruction to said computer-assisted appliance said interface instruction allowing said computer-assisted equipment to cooperate with said remote computer in accordance with said service program;

transmitting said service program, wherein said service program programs one or more selectors located on a surface of the computer-assisted equipment;

said service program configuring the user interface of said computer-assisted appliance; and

receiving information from said computer-assisted appliance, said information being conveyed from said interface and resulting from a user interacting with said interface.

34. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said receiving a service query step includes receiving an indicator that informs said computer of a function performed by said computer-assisted appliance.

35. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said determining step includes said computer searching through a list of service programs.

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36. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 33, wherein said method further comprises said computer-assisted appliance prompting said user for said input.